

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALTURAS FIELD OFFICE

DECISION RECORD FOR A CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED ACTION

A. Background

BLM Office: Alturas Field Office – LLCAN02000

NEPA File No.: DOI-BLM-CA-N020-2012-0016-CX

Proposed Action Title/Type: Arrowhead Type II Wind Energy ROW

Location of Proposed Action: The right-of-way would be located west of Madeline, California, in Lassen County. See attached legal description and map.

Description of Proposed Action: The proposed action is to grant a Type II right-of-way (ROW) as described in the Wind Energy Development Policy (IM 2009-043) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and 43 CFR 2800.

The FLPMA ROW grant (Form 2800-14) would include provisions for renewal beyond the 3-year term (43 CFR 2807.22). The interest retained by the holder of the project area is only an interest to preclude other wind energy ROW applications during the 3-year term of the grant. The holder of the project area grant establishes no right to development and is required to submit a separate ROW application for wind energy development to the BLM for analysis, review, and decision. The BLM retains the right to authorize other compatible uses of the public lands.

The ROW would encompass approximately 37,790 acres and would be granted for a term of 3-years. There will be no ground disturbing activities on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). No new roads or improvements to existing roads will be made on land managed by the BLM.

The applicant would park a trailer mounted Sodar unit on public land on Knox Mountain (see attached map for Sodar location). The Sodar unit that is proposed is manufactured by Second Wind, which is referred to as “Triton”, is designed to use sodar for the purpose of wind energy measurement. Similar to how a submarine uses sound waves to detect nearby vessels in water, sodar (sonic detection and ranging) systems use sound waves to collect data such as wind speed. The Triton is rugged and weather resistant, constructed from recyclable low density polyethylene plastic, aluminum and stainless steel. It stands approximately six feet tall on a rectangular base which is six feet long and four feet wide. The unit weighs approximately 700 pounds and is designed to fit in a pickup truck bed for transport. Because the Triton unit will be on a trailer there will be minimal ground disturbance or visual impacts.



Triton (Sodar) unit assembled

B. Compliance with Laws, Regulations, Policies and Land Use Plans

This action conforms to the Alturas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), approved on April 17, 2008 because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with the RMP objectives and decisions.

C. Administrative Remedies

Administrative remedies may be available to those who believe they will be adversely affected by this decision. Appeals may be made to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, Board of Land Appeals (Board) in strict compliance with the regulations in 43 CFR Part 4. Notices of appeal must be filed in this office within 30 days after publication of this decision. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed. The notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Department of Interior, 2800 Cottage Way, E-1712, Sacramento, CA 95825.

D. Decision:

It is my decision to approve and implement the proposed action. I have determined that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with H-1790-1-National Environmental Policy Act Handbook, Appendix 4, p. 151-152: E. Realty

19. Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

Approved By: _____
Tim Burke
Alturas Field Manager

06/12/2012
Date